



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

THE OFFICE OF FISHERY COORDINATION

For Release THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1943.

As part of his continuing program to increase production of fishery foodstuffs, Fishery Coordinator Harold L. Ickes today directed a special plea to the New England fishermen's unions and vessel-owners to make every effort possible to expedite the handling of fish at the ports and to utilize fishery equipment to the maximum extent.

"As in all wars," the Coordinator said, "the importance of fishermen and the fishing fleet is greatly increased. They produce annually over four billion pounds of protein foodstuffs. In addition, the industry operates 37,000 vessels and motor-boats manned by 130,000 men--captains and crews--familiar with our shorelines and skilled in their respective fishing and seafaring trades. Already many fishing vessels have materially aided in prosecution of the war."

Most recent statistics prepared for the Office of Fishery Coordination by the Fish and Wildlife Service indicate an over-all annual average production per fisherman of 35,000 pounds of potential protein food. Recent figures also give amazing individual records of production, according to Fishery Coordinator Ickes. Some of these show that, on a year 'round basis, one New England trawler, catching flounders haddock, cod, hake, etc., took 391,000 pounds for each of the 17-man crew; one tuna clipper, with 15 men took 274,000 pounds per fisherman; a small otter trawler (dragger), with 4 men, fishing flounders, took 225,000 pounds per man; and one rose-fish trawler, with a 9-man crew took 335,000 pounds per man.